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Do You Wish  
to have your name  
remain on the R A R Y  
Bonnewitz GARDEN RECEIVED  
Peony and Iris Garden  
Mailing List?

If so, send a Post Card.

I hope you are one of the persons who will wish to remain on my mailing list and receive my 1937 Peony Catalogue. Instead of ten thousand names, I would rather have a very selected list of even five thousand, all of whom are really interested in my annual observations on peonies.

I have just passed my 70th year and I wish particularly to send my catalogue to every one of my older friends even though none of them will ever have room for more peonies.

In the past 30 years I have purchased over 1100 varieties of peonies and will continue buying the very best new ones. However, I have already discarded over 900 varieties which, in my judgment, have been superseded. There are at least 50 varieties now in my garden which are on their way to the discard, for I desire to propa-

gate no peony which does not serve a useful purpose better than other varieties of similar character.

This new catalogue will be different. It will tell you the varieties I consider of most service to the world, whether they are new or old.

The most useful peonies are those which we are proud to see growing in our gardens and which carry themselves in such perfect condition even in unfavorable weather, that we do not need to hide them in a cutting garden. The list of this kind of varieties is very small and when we find one of them which is graceful enough for interior decoration and also beautiful enough to win prizes in National Peony Shows, we have found so perfect a peony that it will never be superseded.

I am taking particular delight in searching out peonies of this kind, from the many hundred that have less merit.

My thirty years experience in Peony Gardens and my twenty years experience in National Peony Shows, have given me confidence in my own judgment of the value of peonies, after having seen them both in my own garden and on the exhibition table.

Our Peony season in Van Wert this year has covered a period of over three weeks and the weather has been so wet that few farmers have been able to plow their corn and yet, here are three varieties, each of which has given us twelve days beauty in the garden, notwithstanding the weather.

## **AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER: Three Fine Landscape Peonies.**

**PHILIPPE RIVOIRE**, the best red peony

# The Story of The Beginning of the American Iris Society

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In June, 1917, I attended my second National Peony Show, which was held in Philadelphia, Pa. I spent a delightful half hour selecting and arranging six of my very best Jubilee blooms to win the most coveted prize in all Peony Shows—that for the best six blooms of any one variety.

After Jubilee had received all the help I could give her in the contest, I began examining other exhibits. In a prominent location, I saw a display of iris and was delighted to find that every variety shown was growing in my own garden. While admiring them I was approached by a personable young man, who greeted me by saying that he was glad to see me enjoying the iris from his garden. When I told him that I was trying to call each one by name, for they were all growing in my garden, his response was so cordial that it was the beginning of a friendship which has continued for over twenty years. He informed me that he was John C. Wister, of Germantown, Pa.; that he had been particularly interested in growing tree peonies, and that he very recently became interested in the iris.

He told me that he had enlisted in the ser-

vice for war, overseas, and that within a couple of months, he expected to be in France and voluntarily offered to write me of interesting things he might find in European gardens. He did not forget this promise and in one of his letters, he told me that he had taken advantage of a furlough to visit two excellent gardens near Paris.

In the first one, known as the Vilmorin Gardens, he found a larger, more brilliant iris than he had ever seen before. Its color approached red and its name was 'AMBASSADEUR'. In the other garden, belonging to Mr. Millet, he found a rich blue-purple iris of great size and excellent substance, bearing the name "MADAME GAUDICHAU". He suggested that I immediately make application to the National Government for permission to import these excellent iris. This, of course, I was very glad to do. In my letter, thanking him for this information, I told him that upon his return we would form an American Iris Society, and that I would take it upon myself to see that he was made its first president.

Within 18 months Mr. Wister had returned to the United States, and certain well known iris lovers had been called together to form the new organization. As I happened to be chairman of the nominating committee, I was very glad to have the opportunity to make good my promise that Mr. Wister should be made the first president of the new American Iris Society.

It was perfectly natural that at this meeting, Mr. Wister should tell of his visits to the French Gardens and of the two splendid iris, Ambassadeur and Madame Gaudichau, which he had found in them. Consequently, they received a great

deal of favorable publicity, and when the Government released these varieties for sale, there was a very great demand for them.

Even before the blooming period, several enthusiastic iris lovers came to my garden to purchase them. Although we all know they should not have been moved until after the blooming period, they insisted upon immediately digging them for their own gardens, paying from twenty-five to forty dollars each according to the increase attached to each rhizome.

Two years later, Mr. Wister and I attended the International Iris Meeting in Paris, where we visited these same gardens again, and where I procured for our American friends still more French varieties,

We had before us, however, a most delightful visit to England where we were invited with Mr. Wallace, the noted English iris grower, to visit Mr. Bliss' garden in Cornwall. Mr. Bliss had exhibited "DOMINION" two years before, but its more famous descendants, "CARDINAL", "BRUNO", and "DUKE OF BEDFORD" were then blooming in his wonderfully compact and most celebrated garden. Although the price was 12 Guineas (\$63.00) each, I brought two of each variety to my American garden. Two days later, we attended, in Chelsea, the largest flower show in the world held out doors and covered with several of the largest tents I have ever seen. The high point for us was the iris exhibit, and "PROSPERO", a grayish, blue iris of unusual size, originated by Mr. Yeld, carried off the highest honors. We brought plants of this also with us on our homeward journey.

Why have I told you this bit of Iris Society history? Just because in those days our numbers

were few and so the hundreds of members of The Iris Society, who have come into it during the past dozen years, know nothing of the thrill which we older members enjoyed when we saw for the first time the very best iris from England and France.

## **Ambassadeur, Madame Gaudichau, Cardinal, Bruno, Duke of Bedford and Prospero**

I believe that the possession of these six famous iris of 15 years ago, contributes to the education of the iris enthusiast. I will be glad to furnish one of each of these six iris by express, for \$1.50, or by parcel post for \$1.65. Two of each by express for \$2.50, or by parcel post for \$2.70. I can furnish them by express in quantities of two dozen or more at \$1.50 per dozen, in quantities of five dozen or more at \$1.40 per dozen, and in quantities of ten dozen or more at \$1.25 per dozen, assorted in any manner the purchaser wishes. Shipment to be made after July 10th.

## **New Iris in the 1937 Catalog**

New varieties of Iris are being introduced at a very rapid rate. At one time I had in my own garden over 1100 varieties. Over a thousand new ones have been introduced since that time. To try to grow all of the Iris and offer them for sale in any catalogue is an impossible task. Consequently I have decided, if possible, to keep my list below one hundred varieties. Here is an alphabetical list of twenty-five varieties of which I am very proud.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Amigo             | 14. Lucrezia Bori     |
| 2. California Gold   | 15. Mary Geddes       |
| 3. Crown Jewel       | 16. Moonglo           |
| 4. Eros              | 17. Pink Satin        |
| 5. Ethel Peckham     | 18. Red Radience      |
| 6. Genevieve Serouge | 19. Sandia            |
| 7. Gudrun            | 20. Shah Jehan        |
| 8. Happy Days        | 21. Sir Knight        |
| 9. Imperial Blush    | 22. Snow King         |
| 10. Indigo Bunting   | 23. Tarantella        |
| 11. Jean Cayeux      | 24. The Black Douglas |
| 12. Jerry            | 25. Varese            |
| 13. Junaluska        |                       |

I expect to offer these varieties of Iris in this year's catalogue, with about 75 others (my complete list), in collections ranging from 6 rhizomes to 25 or more.

## Still More Iris for Next Year

Here is another lot of twenty new varieties which are now growing in my garden, and which I hope to list and describe in the Iris Catalogue of next year.

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|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Burning Bronze    | 11. Ministre Ferdinand David |
| 2. Cheerio           | 12. Missouri                 |
| 3. Coralie           | 13. President Le Brun        |
| 4. Directeur Pinelle | 14. Prof. S. B. Mitchell     |
| 5. Eleanor Roosevelt | 15. Red Dominion             |
| 6. Ella Winchester   | 16. Rose Dominion            |
| 7. Gloriole          | 17. Royal Beauty             |
| 8. Golden Treasure   | 18. Shining Waters           |
| 9. K. V. Ayres       | 19. Summer Tan               |
| 10. Marco Polo       | 20. Tarantella               |

## DOES THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR POST OFFICE?

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Our letter carriers here in Van Wert receive from the postal clerks in the Railroad mail cars, catalogues for delivery to Van Wert citizens who have been dead five, ten, and even 15 years. Consequently, all mailing lists must be revised often.

You will know by reading this message that I am still giving thanks for life and health. Your post card with name and address upon it, will let me know that you, also, are in the land of the living and that you would like to have my catalogue mailed to you, and to have your name kept on my mailing list for another year.

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**Do Not Fail to Send Me the Post Card  
With Name and Address.**

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**THE BONNEWITZ  
PEONY AND IRIS GARDEN  
VAN WERT, OHIO**

in the world; PHYLLIS KELWAY, the bright pink, semi-double variety which comes up smiling after the rain, and AMA NO SODE, the most spectacular Japanese peony we have ever seen, which by the wealth of blooms on its laterals, has prolonged its season far beyond other landscape varieties.

A ONE YEAR PLANT of each of these landscape, prize-winning, and decorative peonies —\$7.50, by express or by parcel post for 25c extra. Shipment September first.

Any two of these varieties—\$5.00, by express or by parcel post, 20c extra.

## **AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER:**

### **Three Prize-Winning Peonies.**

LE CYGNE, white, the highest rated peony in the world; MYRTLE GENTRY, dainty pink, in many respects the most valuable peony Mr. Brand has ever introduced; and MRS. EDWARD HARDING, white, the first peony which sold at \$100.00 per root.

A ONE YEAR PLANT of each of these three excellent varieties—\$6.00, by express or by parcel post for 25c extra. Any two of these varieties for \$4.00, by express or by parcel post for 20c extra.

## **FREE ROOTS**

### **With Every Purchase of Three or More Peonies**

When I made my first purchase of peony roots from Mr. Lemoine, of Nancy, France, he included, free, an extra root of a very desirable variety and every time I looked at that plant

throughout the many years it was blooming in my garden, a kindly feeling for Mr. Lemoine took possession of me.

In 1920, when I began selling peonies, the custom was for the purchaser to pay the express or parcel post charges on shipments, and I adopted Mr. Lemoine's custom, and it has given me a great deal of pleasure, for many years, to include an extra root or two in every shipment I have made.

However, some dealers have now adopted the custom of paying parcel post charges on their shipments, and my joy in giving free roots has been tempered with the thought that I am continually paying out good money to include the postage on the extra roots. In order to get the full pleasure out of the gifts I love to make, I have decided to adopt a uniform price of 15c postage on the first root, and 5c additional on all other roots the customer includes in his order.

I have received splendid letters from the customers who have received the free roots and I hope to continue this custom inherited from Lemoine, the great expert of the Peony World.

I believe that many of my most loyal friends were first drawn to me by the surprise roots in their peony shipments.

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### Please Do Not Forget the Post Card.

If you are still a lover of Peonies and Iris  
You will want to remain on  
my Mailing List.

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**THE BONNEWITZ  
PEONY AND IRIS GARDEN  
VAN WERT, OHIO**